

1 the General De 573.

2 Library

R9

HEALTH
4 SEP 56
CR. 17

BRAINTREE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

for

1955





Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29355576>

BRAINTREE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

J.E.O. Arnold, Esq., - Chairman
A.Springett, Esq., J.P. - Vice Chairman
Miss G.E.Blyth
Mrs.M.F.Rolt
Miss C. Sams

Councillors - R.J.Barr, R.R.Batey, E.G.Claydon, R.C.Cooke,
C.Crowe, V.B.Goodwin, W.H.Harvey, B.J.Judd, R.G.Manning,
W.A.McMillan, G. Nottage, R.W.Pye, C.D.Sansom, T. Speakman,
E.Tanner, H. Waddington, E.S.Watkinson, J.E.Wilkinson,
S.G.Ratcliff, J.P. (ex-officio) N.E.Strutt, T.D., D.L. (ex-officio)

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Acting Medical Officer of Health (to May, 1955)

Dr.J.S.Ranson, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health (from May, 1955)

Dr.C.R.C.Rainsford, M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M.

Chief Sanitary Inspector

C.Organ, M.S.I.A., Cert., R.S.I., Meat and other Foods

Additional Sanitary Inspector

W.R.Gage, M.S.I.A.

Clerks

R.F.Twitchett

Miss V.T.Kent

P.E.L.Reed (to 12th. March, 1955)

Public Health Offices,
Town Hall,
Braintree.

August, 1956.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my annual report on the health, vital statistics and sanitary circumstances of the district for the year 1955.

The report of your Chief Sanitary Inspector is included and some details relating to Essex County Council Health Services in the area.

1955 was an uneventful year with no outstanding highlights, good or bad.

The Birth Rate was a little higher and the Death Rate a little lower than that of England and Wales as a whole.

The notifications of infectious diseases were higher than in 1954 mainly due to a big increase in measles; poliomyelitis cases numbered 7 against 1 in 1954. Further details are given later in this report.

It is satisfactory to note that all samples of water analysed proved satisfactory.

Perusal of the section on sewage shows that a great deal of work remains to be done in improving existing plants and building new ones.

The housing problem is still with us; it is perhaps a little disappointing to read of the marked reduction in the number of new houses erected but against this must be put the considerable figure for houses which have been improved under the Housing Act, 1949.

A note on Atmospheric Pollution may seem strange in the medical report of a rural district. But the importance to health of clean air is at last being recognised and accurate assessments of the degrees of pollution in various districts is required to assist the national drive against smog. It is gratifying that your Council has agreed to install instruments for the recording of atmospheric pollution.

National Assistance Act, 1948. Section 47.

National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951.

It was necessary to take action on one occasion. The house of an old lady living alone was partly destroyed by fire and she was accommodated in St. Peter's Hospital, Maldon.

I take this opportunity of recording my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their courtesy and interest since I assumed office in May, 1955. I am grateful, too, to the Chief Sanitary Inspector and other officers of the Council for their help and co-operation at all times.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

C.R.C.Rainsford.

Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	...	...	...	59,233
Population (Registrar-General's estimate)	...			19,880
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books	...			6,409
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£78,617
Sum represented by a penny rate...			...	£314. 11. 5.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births :

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
Legitimate	302	163	139	
Illegitimate	18	6	12	
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population			...	16.10
Birth rate corrected by comparability figure of 1.00			...	16.10
Birth rate for England & Wales per 1,000 population				15.0

Still Births :

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	
Legitimate	5	3	2	
Illegitimate	-	-	-	
Rate per 1,000 total births		...	...	15.38
Rate per 1,000 total births England & Wales			...	23.1

Maternal Mortality :

Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion	...	Nil
------------------------------------	-----	-----

Infantile Mortality:

Deaths of infants under 1 year

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	11	6	5
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Mortality rate of legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	36.42
Total infantile mortality rate per 1,000 live births	...	...	34.38
Infantile mortality for England & Wales per 1,000 live births	...	...	24.9

Deaths:

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
	237	129	108
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population	...	...	11.92
Death rate corrected by comparability figure of 0.80	...	...	9.54
Death rate per 1,000 population England & Wales	...	...	11.7

All the above rates are calculated on the estimated population given by the Registrar General.

NOTES ON VITAL STATISTICS.

The estimated 1955 population is 19,880, a decrease of 170 on 1954. There were 320 live births compared with 337 in 1954 and deaths numbered 237 against 195 for the previous year.

There were 11 infant deaths which is an increase of 3 over 1954. The causes of death were prematurity (7) inanition (1) cardiac failure (1) pneumonitis (1) and pneumonia (1)

Analysis of the general mortality figures show that out of 237 deaths, 117 can be grouped under diseases of the cardio vascular system (including vascular diseases of the nervous system) and 36 under cancer or other malignant growths. 15 deaths were recorded from pneumonia and 10 from bronchitis but none from influenza.

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES, 1955.

The table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar-General and the Classification is given under the thirty six headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948.

		Male	Female
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	-	-
2.	Tuberculosis, other ...	1	-
3.	Syphilitic Disease ...	-	1
4.	Diphtheria ...	-	-
5.	Whooping Cough ...	-	-
6.	Meningococcal infections ...	-	-
7.	Acute poliomyelitis ...	2	-
8.	Measles ...	-	-
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	-	2
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	9	2
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	-	3
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	-	1
14.	Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	11	9
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia ...	-	1
16.	Diabetes ...	-	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	13	15
18.	Coronary disease, angina ...	21	7
19.	Hypertension with heart disease...	-	-
20.	Other heart disease ...	19	34
21.	Other circulatory disease ...	5	3
22.	Influenza ...	-	-
23.	Pneumonia ...	7	8
24.	Bronchitis ...	8	2
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach & duodenum ...	4	-
27.	Gastritis enteris and diarrhoea...	3	-
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis ...	1	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate ...	2	-
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	-	-
31.	Congenital malformations ...	2	-
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	16	14
33.	Motor vehicle accidents ...	2	1
34.	All other accidents ...	-	1
35.	Suicide ...	2	1
36.	Homicide and operations of war ...	-	-
All Causes		129	108

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

(a) Under the Control of the Essex County Council:-

(i) Child Welfare Clinics were held at the following Centres during the year:-

			Attendances
COGGESHALL			
St. Peter's Room	1st & 3rd. Tuesday	2 p.m.	739
CRESSING			
Mission Hall, Tye Green,	4th. Monday	2 p.m.	135 (5 months only)
GREAT BARDFIELD			
Town Hall	1st. Monday	2-15 p.m.	344
TERLING			
Red Triangle Hut	1st. Tuesday	2-15 p.m.	336
HATFIELD PEVEREL			
Church Hall, Maldon Road,	2nd. & 4th. Tuesday	2-15 p.m.	470
KELVEDON			
St. Mary's Hall	2nd & 4th. Friday	2-15 p.m.	694
POLISH HOSTEL	2nd. & 4th. Thursday	2-p.m.	164
The Surgery, (Kelvedon)			
WETHERSFIELD			
Village Hall,	3rd. Monday	2-15 p.m.	312

(ii) Home Help Service:-

This useful service is administered from the Area Health Office
Springfield Road, Chelmsford.

(iii) Ambulance Service:-

The Rural District of Braintree is served by the Ambulance
Station, Braintree and Witham

(iv)

The Essex County Council provide a laboratory service which includes the bacteriological and chemical analysis of water samples, the chemical analysis of sewage effluents and the bacteriological examination of ice cream, and the examination of other foods for pathogenic organisms. These examinations are carried out by the Counties Public Health Laboratories, Victoria Street, London S.W.1.

Examination of milk samples from the district are also arranged by the Essex County Council and the service is provided by the Public Health Laboratories, Borough General Hospital, Ipswich.

Chemical examination of food stuffs are undertaken by the Public Analyst to the Essex County Council.

I am grateful to the Pathologist, Black Notley Hospital for examining throat swabs and other specimens.

(b) Under the control of the North-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board :-

(i) Chest Clinics :-

These are held at St. Michael's Hospital, Braintree, weekly..

(ii) Orthopaedic Clinics:-

These are held twice weekly at the Essex County Health Services Clinic, Coggeshall Road, Braintree and an Orthopaedic Specialist from Black Notley Hospital attends the Clinic every three months.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

As can be seen from table (b) the incidence of measles varies greatly from year to year. There were 214 cases in 1955, 162 of these occurred during the month of June, July and August and the villages with the greatest numbers were Coggeshall (66) Feering (41) and Cressing (32). Over half (124) were in children between the ages of 5 and 10 years. There were no hospital admissions and no deaths.

Whooping Cough cases numbered 33, the majority (21) came from Kelvedon. 6 cases of paralytic and 1 of non-paralytic poliomyelitis were notified. 4 were from Hatfield Peverel and one each from Kelvedon, Black Notley and Rayne. This disease is usually most prevalent during the summer and early autumn, but our cases occurred in January (3) October (2) November (1) and December (1). There were none during the summer months. It is noteworthy too that 5 of the patients were 20 years of age or older. There were 2 deaths, one child notified in 1954 and the other an adult from Hatfield Peverel.

TABLE A
PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

DISEASES	Total Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Dysentery	3	1	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-
Food Poisoning	2	1	-
Infective Hepatitis	10	-	-
Measles	214	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-
Pneumonia	3	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	1	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	6	5	*2
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	1	1	-
Scarlet Fever	6	-	-
Tuberculosis, pulmonary	14	9	1
Tuberculosis non-pulmonary	4	1	-
Whooping Cough	33	-	-
Totals	301	19	3

* One of these deaths relates to a case notified at the end of 1954.

TABLE B

DISEASES	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	1	3	1	15	1	3
Encephalitis	2	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	4	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	1	-	-	-	1
Food Poisoning	2	1	-	-	-	2
Infective Hepatitis	4	4	4	1	9	10
Measles	107	134	97	233	18	214
Meningococcal Infection	1	-	-	-	-	-
Pemphigus	2	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	5	4	-	4	1	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	1	2	1	1	4
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	1	1	6
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	3	-	1
Scarlet Fever	17	17	16	8	9	6
Tuberculosis, pulmonary	20	25	10	13	15	14
Tuberculosis, non-pulmonary	7	1	6	1	3	4
Whooping Cough	34	183	15	89	17	33
Totals	206	374	155	369	75	301

TABLE C
INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED ACCORDING TO AGE.

DISEASES	At all Ages	Under 1	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20-35	35 - 45	45 - 65	65 and over	Age unknown
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	3	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
Food Poisoning	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	10	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	1	4	-	-	1	-
Measles	214	1	15	16	23	19	124	10	1	4	1	-	-	-
Meningococcal infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	6	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	1	-	-	-
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	6	-	-	-	-	1	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis Pulmonary	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	7	1	4	-	-
Tuberculosis Non-pulmonary	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	-
Whooping Cough	33	2	4	3	6	5	12	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	301	3	20	19	30	25	147	14	6	22	6	5	4	-

TABLE D.
INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1955.

DISEASES	Total Notified	Great Bardfield	Bradwell	Coggeshall	Cressing	Fairstead	Faulkbourne	Feering	Finchingfield	Hatfield Peverel	Kelvedon	Black Notley	White Notley	Panfield	Pattiswick	Rayne	Bardfield Saling	Great Saling	Shalford	Stisted	Terling	Wethersfield
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	214	10	1	66	32	-	-	41	1	6	22	27	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	4
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	6	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis pulmonary	14	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	1	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	1	1
Tuberculosis non-pulmonary	4	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Whooping Cough	33	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	2	21	-	-	6	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Totals	301	10	1	75	35	-	1	42	1	18	55	31	2	9	3	6	-	3	-	2	3	4

TABLE E
INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED MONTH BY MONTH

DISEASES	Total Notified	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Infective Hepatitis	10	3	2	3	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
Measles	214	33	6	-	4	2	31	93	38	5	-	1	1
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	3	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	1	-
Paralytic Poliomyelitis	6	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1
Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Scarlet Fever	6	-	-	2	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	1	-
Tuberculosis pulmonary	14	-	-	-	4	2	1	1	-	3	1	1	1
Tuberculosis non-pulmonary	4	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
Whooping Cough	33	-	6	1	13	11	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Totals	301	39	17	7	22	16	34	96	41	13	4	8	4

Tuberculosis

14 cases of pulmonary and 4 of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified with one death. Details are given in the following table

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 under 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2 - 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3 - 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 15	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 20	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 25	2	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 & over	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Totals	7	7	3	1	1	-	-	-

Of these cases 4 were notified on taking up residence in this district.

Diphtheria and Whooping Cough. Immunisation.

No case of diphtheria was reported during the year; indeed the last case occurred in 1947.

The great decline in the incidence of diphtheria throughout the country is due to success of the immunisation campaign carried on in past years. There is every reason to believe that a higher immunisation rate would reduce still further the incidence of the disease. There is a risk of complacency and it is necessary to constantly remind parents to have their children immunised. To this end posters and leaflets were distributed throughout the district, and constant propaganda is carried on by Health Visitors at Clinics and in the homes.

Many parents are also having their children immunised against whooping cough and it is generally agreed that the newest whooping cough vaccine gives a considerable degree of protection.

Immunisations against diphtheria and whooping cough are carried out by general practitioners and by Assistant County Medical Officers. Figures are given below.

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

Children who completed a full course of primary immunisation during the year.		Children who were given a reinforcing injection during the year.	
By General Practitioners	By County Staff	By General Practitioners	By County Staff
(a) 134	89	53	239
Total = 223		Total = 292	

Immunisation against Whooping Cough.

Children who completed a full course of immunisation under the County Scheme.		Records of combined diphtheria pertussis immunisation received.
By General Practitioners	By County Staff	
50	26	(b) 85
Reinforcing injections 1	-	27

Figure (b) is included in (a)

Vaccination against Smallpox.

No. vaccinated during the year = 219

No. re-vaccinated during the year= 91

Public Health Offices,
St. Peter's Close,
Bocking, Braintree.

August, 1956

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting my report on the Sanitary Circumstances of the District and the work of the Sanitary Inspectors' Department for the year ending 31st. December, 1955.

During the year, the Housing Circumstances of the District were reviewed on the instructions of the Minister of Housing and Local Government, and a return made of the Council's Housing Programme. This information is reprinted later in this report. Whilst the figure of 728 houses which fall to be dealt with by Demolition Orders or Clearance Areas, may appear formidable, it should not give cause for undue alarm since from experience in the past, many of these will be satisfactorily dealt with by owners other than by actual demolition.

I would emphasize, however, that if all the properties which fall short of the required standard are to be dealt with within the twelve years as estimated, this aspect of the work must, of necessity, be given considerable priority, both as regards the work of the Department and by the Council in providing alternative means of accommodation.

The information given relating to the inspection of animals for human consumption, shows that in spite of the scattered nature of the District and the somewhat irregular times that animals are slaughtered, it has been possible to maintain a high standard of inspection. Much of this work, however, takes place outside normal working hours.

The two aspects of the work of the Department mentioned in this introduction, do call considerably on the resources of the staff and it is imperative that a further Additional Sanitary Inspector should be appointed as soon as practicable. One member of the staff should sit for his qualifying examination in mid 1956, and if successful should solve the immediate problem.

In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation and thanks to other Officers of the Council for their help and co-operation, particularly the Surveyor and Engineer and his staff for much of the information regarding Public Water Supplies and Sewage Disposal included in the Sanitary Circumstances of the District; to members of the Council for their interest and support; and to the staff of my own Department for the way they have carried out their duties during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

C.ORGAN.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT

WATER

No extensions to water mains were made during the year and none was planned for 1956.

The main public water supplies generally have been very satisfactory during the year as regards quantity and quality.

None of the waters is liable to have any plumbo-solvent action.

The quality of the raw water from the Council's sources of supply and of the water passing into supply is controlled by regular bacteriological examinations. Regular chemical analyses are also made of the raw water from the respective sources. Fifty four samples of main water supplies were taken for analysis during 1955. Copies of typical reports on the analyses of the water from four sources. Petches Bridge Waterworks, Coggeshall Waterworks, Terling Waterworks and South Essex Water Company will be found along with the details of each works.

All the main water supplies in the District are subject to chlorination at the respective sources. In the case of the Council's undertakings, gaseous chlorine is employed at Petches Bridge Works and hypochlorite solution at Coggeshall and at Terling.

Details of the functioning of each of the undertakings during 1955 are given below. It has not been possible to obtain separate statistics as to trade and domestic consumption for the year under review.

Petches Bridge Waterworks (A)

Number gallons pumped during year ended 31st. March, 1956.	80,194,000
Average day's pumping	... .. 16.07 hours

Analyst's Report on a typical sample of this water.

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The water is very hard in character though not excessively so and it contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution. It is of satisfactory organic and bacterial purity.

These results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

Coggeshall Waterworks (B)

Number gallons pumped during year ended 31st. March, 1956	22,400,000
Average day's pumping	8.76 hours

Analyst's Report on a typical sample of this water.

This sample is ^{practically} clear and bright in appearance, has a reaction on the alkaline side of neutrality and is free from metals apart from a minute trace of iron. The hardness of the water is very moderate; its content of mineral and saline constituents although somewhat high is not considered excessive. Its organic quality and bacterial purity are of a high standard.

These results are normal for this pumping station and are indicative of a water which is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes apart from the disadvantage of its known content of flourine being higher than the figure considered most desirable.

Terling Waterworks (C)

Number gallons pumped during year ended 31st. March, 1956	22,995,000
Average day's pumping	7 hours

Analyst's Report on a typical sample of this water.

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals. The water is very hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not excessive. It conforms to the highest standard of organic quality but shows bacterial impurity including Bact. coli in fairly small numbers.

The water is considered suitable for chlorination for public supply purposes.

South Essex Water Company (D)

Total quantity of water received by this Council from the Company for the year ended 31st. March, 1956 is as follows:

<u>Eastern Area</u>	Gallons
(i) Augumented supply to Coggeshall, Kelvedon and Feering	16,000,000
(ii) Supply to Bradwell, Cressing, Stisted, Black Notley and White Notley.	124,511,000
Total c/f	140,511,000

		Gallons
		b/f 140,511,000
<u>Southern Area</u>	(E)	
Augumented supply to Hatfield Peverel, Terling and Fairstead	... ..	7,964,000
<u>Analyst's Report on a typical sample of this water.</u>		<u>148,475,000</u>

This sample is clear and bright in appearance and is of satisfactory bacterial purity.

These results are indicative of a water which is wholesome in character and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.

Supply from Chelmsford R.D.C. (F)

Total quantity of water received by this Council from the Chelmsford R.D.C. for the year ended 31st. March, 1956 was made up as follows:

		Gallons
Ranks Green Extension, Fairstead	... ..	1,321,000
Fuller Street Extension, Fairstead	... ..	313,000
"Carolfelds" Extension, Hatfield Peverel	... ..	676,000
		<u>2,315,000</u>

Number of new connections at A	24
Number of new connections at B and D	51
Number of new connections at C, E and F	14
Total	<u>89</u>

SHALLOW WELL SUPPLIES

Only 4 public shallow well supplies were in use at the end of the year as follows:-

<u>Parishes</u>	<u>Wells and Springs</u>
Bradwell	Two wells at Council Houses and opposite Bridge Hall.
Finchingfield	Two wells at Hawkins Harvest and at Ost End.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

A small number of sewer connections were made to the Northern Area Sewerage Scheme during the year but a large number of properties are still not connected. Action under the Public Health Act to connect these properties has still to be taken.

Throughout the District new building works are continually being carried out and the provision of main drainage schemes for the villages of Rayne, Terling, Stisted and Bradwell is a matter of some urgency.

The sanitary conditions in the London Road Area of Black Notley are an acute problem and the only satisfactory solution is a small scheme connected to the Braintree Sewerage System. With the completion of the new works at Braintree this problem can be solved.

At the present time the Government Policy of restriction on Capital Expenditure is holding up the actual work of starting new Schemes but nevertheless it is important that the actual work of preparation should be commenced as soon as possible so that work can be started when the restrictions are removed.

Coggeshall Sewage Disposal Works.

A further increase in the flow to these works has been noted during the year. The works are of old design and grossly overloaded and careful supervision and maintenance has been necessary in order to obtain a fair effluent.

The remaining two pumps at the Sewage Pumping Station were completely overhauled during the year.

Kelvedon Sewage Disposal Works.

The situation at this works is similar to Coggeshall and with the completion of the present housing site at Church Fields the works will become further overloaded.

During the year pumps on this works were inspected by the manufacturers and new couplings and Air Valves fitted.

Hatfield Peverel Sewage Disposal Works.

This works is overloaded to a greater extent than any other in the District, and in view of the fact that the effluent is discharged into a water course which is a source for drinking water the problem of modernisation is a most urgent necessity.

During the year the plant has been maintained as well as possible having regard to the flow to be treated and the Pumps at the Pumping Station have been overhauled by the makers.

Wethersfield Sewage Disposal Works.

These works are still not working to capacity and a satisfactory standard has been maintained throughout the year.

Isolated cases of oil discharge from the Airfield have been noted during the year but the Oil Trap has enabled the Oil to be removed before any major damage to the treatment plant could be caused.

White Notley Sewage Disposal Works.

This works is now operating approximately to its designed capacity. It has functioned in a satisfactory manner throughout the year. One pump at the Sewage Pumping Station was overhauled by the makers during the year.

Analyses

The following are details of results of analyses taken from the various works during the year.

Despite the overloading of the works referred to it is gratifying to note that with continual maintenance and supervision the number of unsatisfactory results has been kept to a minimum.

<u>Works</u>	<u>Analyses</u>	
	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Coggeshall	2	1
Kelvedon	3	1
Hatfield Peverel	1	2
Wethersfield	3	-
White Notley	3	-

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Collection of Domestic Refuse.

Whilst it was possible to maintain a more or less regular service of removal and disposal of domestic refuse throughout the year, there were times when, owing to labour difficulties and

shortage of transport, this fell below the usual fortnightly standard.

The use of the dual-purpose vehicle, which is mainly engaged on collection of night soil, emptying of cesspools etc. was not as much as had been anticipated; which means that by far the greater part of the work was carried out by the two full-time vehicles only. With the ever growing number of dwellings to be served, it is inevitable that a third vehicle will have to be provided in the not-too-distant future.

No long term solution to the problem of the disposal of household refuse has yet been found and with the rapid filling of the present tips, this particular aspect will soon require urgent consideration.

Salvage .

Salvaged materials to the value of just over £1100 were disposed of during 1955. This shows a considerable increase over the previous year and again, the greater part was derived from the sale of waste paper.

Night Soil Collection.

The Contract for carrying out this service was terminated during the early part of the year and the work taken over by the Council.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT.

Details of the nature and number of inspections and visits made during the year by the Department are set out below. Once more it will be appreciated that the majority of visits are inevitably a result of housing and allied complaints brought to the notice of the Department, often through applications for housing accommodation which continue to be dealt with by the Department.

Nature and Number of Visits, Inspections etc.

Housing Inspections and Recordings	...	...	21
Complaints received	...	...	112
Visits to investigate complaints	...	...	131
Re-visits following complaints, notices etc.	...	...	85
Re-visits and inspections of work in progress	...	...	340
Interviews with owners, builders and architects	...	...	131
Infectious disease enquiries	...	...	45
Disinfections carried out	...	...	1
Infestation of insect Pests found	...	...	none
Disinfestations carried out	...	...	none
Inspections of Dairies	...	...	4
Visits to Slaughterhouses	...	...	1264
Visits to Butcher's Shops	...	...	55
Inspections of Knacker's Yard	...	...	48
Inspections of Shops	...	...	11
Inspections of Bakehouses	...	...	13
Inspections of Fish Friers Premises	...	...	5
Inspections of Food Preparing Premises	...	...	27
Inspections of Schools	...	...	none
Water Samples taken	...	...	55
Ice Cream Samples taken	...	...	9
Drains tested	...	...	92
Visits to premises regarding re-drainage	...	...	137
Inspections of Ice Cream Premises	...	...	34
Visits to Requisitioned Premises	...	...	10
Visits to Caravan and Camping Sites	...	...	25
Visits in connection with Refuse Collection and collection of salvage			25
Visits to Refuse Tips			42
Visits to premises re water supplies	...	...	16
Visits to premises re Improvement Grants	...	...	434
Visits re National Assistance Act	...	...	2
Visits to premises prior to removal to Council Houses	...	...	124
Visits to premises following applications for Council Houses	...	...	94
Visits to ascertain Permitted Numbers	...	...	10
Visits to supervise H.C.N.fumigations	...	...	none
Inspections re Rats and Mice infestations	...	...	16
Inspections re River Pollutions	...	...	none
Visits re smoke nuisances	...	...	4
Miscellaneous visits and inspections	...	...	217
Inspections of Public Houses	...	...	14

CONTROLLED PREMISES: Details of Inspections, etc.

Regulated Buildings, Trades etc.	No. Registered	No. Inspected	Total No. of Inspections	Informal Notices Served	Notices Complied With	Legal Proceedings
Common Lodging Houses	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Bakehouses	15	11	13	3	3	Nil
Slaughterhouses and Butcher's Shops	16	16	1319	37	37	Nil
Knacker's Yard	1	1	48	6	6	Nil
Offensive Trades	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Fish Fryers	3	3	15	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ice Cream Premises	64	34	43	5	5	Nil
Factories and Workshops	85	41	51	3	3	Nil

Shops Acts, 1934 and 1950.

It was not practicable to carry out many inspections at shops except so far as they are combined with other controlled premises, i.e. preparation, storage and sale of foods.

No Statutory Action was necessary during the year.

Movable Dwellings.

Four new or revised applications for licences to station and use individual caravans on sites and two applications for site licences within the District were received and approved during the year. One of the former was later withdrawn.

The total number of caravans so licenced was twenty, a reduction of two over the total for the last year. In addition five site licences were in force.

Smoke Abatement.

During the year the Council agreed to participate in a scheme organized by the Atmospheric Pollution Research Station, for measuring the degree and extent of atmospheric pollution over the County of Essex. This was a very welcome decision and will do much to strengthen the investigations into a problem which can not only affect the health of the population, but can have considerable deleterious effect on both agriculture and property. Owing to the magnitude of this problem, the recording station had not been set up by the end of the year, but it was anticipated that this would be done early in 1956.

Vermin Infestation.

The practice of carrying out inspections of bedding and household effects before tenants move to Council Houses continued during the year. It is pleasing to record that no case of infestation of insect pests were found.

Rag, Flock and other Filling Materials Act, 1951.

There are now no premises registered under this Act in the District.

Rodent Control.

Following complaints or normal routine visits, 13 major infestations (20 - 100 rats), 39 minor infestations (1 - 20 rats) and 10 cases of infestation by mice were found and satisfactorily dealt with.

In addition, periodical treatments were given to the Council's Refuse Tips and Sewage Disposal Works.

Tests on the Council's sewerage systems (excluding the new Northern Area sewers which have not yet been brought into the scheme) showed no infestation whatever and no treatment was therefore necessary. It is interesting to note that this has happened for the first time in the same year that the number of infestations found and dealt with is considerably lower than the previous year.

Factories .

Particulars of premises in the Rural District coming within the scope of the Factories Act, 1937, and of inspections made will be found on page 29.

Notification of the employment of 47 outworkers employed in the District was recieved during the year. These were engaged mainly in the lampshade and wearing apparel industries.

Schools.

All schools in the Rural District have piped main water supplies available, and the sanitary conveniences continued to be maintained in a reasonably satisfactory state.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Particulars of the premises registered by the Council under the Factories Act, 1937, and of the inspections made are to be found as follows :-

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of	
			Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority	15	5	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	70	46	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	5	5	-	-
Totals	90	56	-	-

2. CASES in which DEFECTS were found

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspr.	by H.M. Inspr.	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	3	3	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences (not including offences relating to outworkers)	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	3	3	-	-	-

HOUSING

The number of additional units of accommodation provided in the District during 1955 was 71, a decrease of 137 over the previous year. Details are as follows:-

New Council Houses	...	...	36
Private Enterprise Houses	...	...	50
Plus: Additional units provided by conversion of other buildings to new dwellings.			2
			<hr/>
Total			88
Less: Four cases of re-conditioning where units of accommodation were reduced from three to two or two to one	...	...	4
Thirteen properties were demolished in 1955.			13
			<hr/>
Net total			71
			<hr/> <hr/>

The number of outstanding applications for housing accommodation at the end of the year was 498, a reduction of 88 over 1954.

This figure shows a much greater reduction in the number of applicants than has been reported for previous years and it is possibly due to the more careful and drastic revision of the applications.

Very few urgent and difficult cases did arise during the year for re-housing and a large number of cases can now be classified as:-

1. Sharing accommodation
 2. Waiting to get married
 3. Wishing to be free from "Tied" accommodation,
- and other less important reasons.

The number of new Council Houses erected during 1955 was considerably less than the average for previous years, but it is anticipated that the figure for 1956 will show a marked increase.

If slum clearance work is to proceed in accordance with the programme set out elsewhere in this report, it is obvious that the number of new Council Houses to be built for this and normal purposes, will have to be considerably increased during the next few years.

How this is to be done will depend to a large extent on financial consideration.

Work under the Housing Act 1949 in relation to Improvement Grants assumed new proportions during 1955 and as the figures given elsewhere show, the work involved was higher in the one year than in the whole of the previous period since the inception of the Act.

Much of the work involved in dealing with applications for Improvement Grants is of a very detailed nature and it therefore threw an unexpected and additional burden on the resources of the Department. It is gratifying to record, however, that all applications were dealt with with the minimum amount of delay.

Housing Act, 1949 (Improvement Grant)

Figures for the year ending 31st. December, 1955.

(a)	Number of applications received	...	...	50
(b)	Number of Applications approved by Council		...	46
(c)	Number of Improved dwellings resulting from works at (b)			65
(d)	Number of Improved dwellings completed		...	47
(e)	Number of Dwellings where work was in hand but not completed			21
(f)	Total amount involved in Grants approved		...	£17,126

No further application for certificates of disrepair under the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 was received from the tenants and the two granted in the previous year had not been withdrawn.

HOUSING SURVEY.

Total number of permanent dwellings in the local authority's area	6,304
---	-----	-----	-----	-------

Part 1. The total problem.

- (i) Estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation within the meaning of Section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 and suitable for action under section 11 or section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936.

728

(ii)	Period in years which the Council think necessary for securing the demolition of all the houses in (i)	12
Part 2. Orders already made, etc.		
(iii)	Number of houses in (i) in clearance areas and already covered by operative clearance or compulsory purchase orders or owned by the local authority.	24
(iv)	Number of houses which are already in clearance areas and for which clearance or compulsory purchase orders have been submitted to the Minister but have not yet become operative.	nil
Part 3. Action in the first five years.		
(v)	Number of houses which are already in clearance areas and for which clearance or compulsory purchase orders are to be made or which are to be purchased by agreement within the five years.	nil
(vi)	Number of houses which are to be included in clearance areas still to be declared and which within the five years will be owned by the local authority or will have been included in a clearance order or a compulsory purchase order submitted to the Minister.	156
(vii)	Number of houses under (iii), (iv), (v) and (vi) to be patched (if necessary) and retained within the five years under section 2 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 for temporary accommodation	nil
(viii)	Number of houses under (iii), (iv), and (vi) to be demolished in the five years.	180
(ix)	Number of houses (including those already comprised in operative demolition orders) to be demolished in the five years as a result of action under section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936.	70

INSPECTIONS AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk Supply

The majority of retailers registered with the Council continue to distribute milk as received by them in sealed bottles, and largely as a result, little trouble was experienced with regard to complaints of unsatisfactory supplies.

Dairies.

Twenty distributors and eight dairies were registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

The following licences were issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949.

Dealers' Licence for Tuberculin Tested Milk	...	10
Supplementary Licence for Tuberculin Tested Milk		8
Dealers' Licence for Pasteurised Milk	... ..	10
Supplementary Licence for Pasteurised Milk	...	5

Ice Cream Premises.

There were 64 premises registered for the storage, manufacture and sale of ice cream in the District, an increase of 5 over the previous year. Nineteen samples of ice cream and iced lollies were taken during the summer months with the following results in terms of the Provisional Grading of the Ministry of Health applicable to the Methylene Blue Reduction Test.

Manufactured in the District				Manufactured outside the District			
4	Provisional	Grade	I	9	Provisional	Grade	I
-	"	"	2	1	"	"	2
-	"	"	3	1	"	"	3
-	"	"	4	2	"	"	4
				2 Iced Lollies Satisfactory Standard			

It is interesting to note that all four samples taken from the only manufacturer in the District have proved to be of an excellent standard.

Due to the fact that the majority of retailers of ice cream in the District are now supplied by the three larger manufacturers the number of samples taken in subsequent years may decrease, although a nominal amount of routine sampling will be maintained.

Meat Inspection.

A revised tabular statement as requested by the Ministry of Health is included in this report to show information about the post mortem inspection of animals slaughtered for human consumption. (see page 34)

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	1485	238	583	2649	7886	117
Number inspected	1479	235	539	2572	7847	56
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	7	4	3	13	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	204	44	6	21	241	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	13.86%	21.70%	1.86%	0.93%	3.24%	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	3	-	1	-	6	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	114	20	1	-	216	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	7.91%	8.51%	0.37%	-	2.83%	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	3	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	3	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

1955 was the first full year during which it was possible for Butchers to buy and slaughter their own animals, since 1940, and it will readily be seen from the figures given that it was possible to inspect a very high percentage of all animals slaughtered. This, in spite of the scattered positions of the slaughterhouses and the fact that much killing takes place outside normal hours; at weekends; and most holiday periods.

It is interesting to note that the amount of meat condemned as unfit for human consumption was just over $8\frac{1}{2}$ tons.

One additional slaughterhouse was brought up to the required standard and re-licenced. Its use, however, during the year was very limited.

16 Slaughtermen were licensed by the Council for the year.

Total amounts of meat condemned during the year are as follows:-

Beef	Pork	Veal	Mutton	Total
12,567 lbs	6,428 lbs	333 lbs	237 lbs	19,565 lbs

Other Foods.

Visits were made to premises used for the preparation, storage and sale of food and various items requiring attention were dealt with on an informal basis. During the latter part of the year with the knowledge of impending Regulations under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, governing food handling and food premises generally, it was possible to arouse more interest than previously. National publicity has done much to emphasize the responsibilities of food handlers and of occupiers of food premises.

It was not necessary to take any formal action during the year regarding premises or handling of food nor did any diseased or unsound food have to be seized.

The undermentioned commodities were condemned in addition to meat.

412 tins and jars of food of various types.	4 lbs. Pork Luncheon Meat.
$9\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. Luncheon Meat.	97 x 1 cwt bags of Pickling Onions.
$7\frac{1}{2}$ lbs Corned Beef.	63 x 2 fluid oz Wrapped Vanilla Brickettes.
27 lbs. Pineapple tit-bits.	

